Having disclosed the aforementioned invention, we claim:

1. A port for connecting to a switching fabric, having a plurality signal resources dividable into at least a first resource subset and a second resource subset, said port configurable in a plurality of configurations and said port comprising:

a first interface operable whereby said port is in a first configuration,
said first interface incorporating said first resource subset and,

said first interface not incorporating said second resource subset,

a second interface operable whereby said port is in a second configuration,
said second interface incorporating said first resource subset and said second resource subset,

a third interface operable whereby said port is in a third configuration,
said third interface incorporating said second resource subset and,
said third interface not incorporating said first resource subset.

2. The port of claim 1, for co-operating with a core, and additionally comprising a switching circuit wherein said switching circuit is controlled by the core and capable of coupling either said first, second, or third interface to said core.

3. A method of fault tolerance in a network having a primary fabric a replacement fabric and an endpoint, said endpoint including a port having a plurality signal resources dividable into at least a first resource subset and a second resource subset, said port configurable in a plurality of configurations

Said method comprising the steps:

configuring the port as a first interface incorporating the first resource subset

detecting a failure of communication at said endpoint,

notifying said primary fabric to terminate communications,

notifying said replacement fabric to initiate communications,

terminating communications at said first interface,

configuring the port as a second interface incorporating the second resource subset

and initiating communications at said second interface.

4 A method as claimed in Claim 3, where the switching fabric comprises a first fabric and a second fabric.

5 A method as claimed in Claim 4, wherein the first fabric is a primary fabric.

6 A method as claimed in Claim 5, wherein the second fabric is a replacement fabric.

7 A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the replacement fabric comprises a cold standby fabric.

8 A method as claimed in Claim 6, wherein the replacement fabric comprises a hot standby fabric.

9 A method as claimed in Claims 1-7, wherein the port is compliant with a standard.

10 A method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the standard is RapidIO.

11 A method as claimed in Claim 9, wherein the standard is HyperTransport™.